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**FRANK L. HOOGS.....MANAGER**  
**SATURDAY.....JULY 8, 1905.**

## A Maritime Mystery

The British Government is seeking among the islands of the South Pacific for the key to one of the most amazing mysteries of crime on the high seas, that the annals of navigation afford.

W. A. Hobbs, aged 24, of Litchfield, Ill.; James Tuner, aged 21, of Ida Falls, and Ernest Sears, aged 21, of McCoy, Oregon, shipped at San Francisco on the Leicester Castle in July, 1902, the vessel sailing for England, wheat laden, July 26. They were all ignorant of a sailor's duties, were seasick, refused duty and were promptly disrated by the captain. The first mate, Oysten, in whose watch Hobbs was, is said to have made it unpleasant for the latter. On the night of September 2 Hobbs stole the revolver belonging to John B. Nixon, the second mate, and started gunning for the first mate. The latter rushed to his cabin. Hobbs then sent word by Sears to the captain, Robert D. Peattie, that a man had fallen from the foreyard and broken his leg. The captain at once got ready to treat the supposed unfortunate, and opening his cabin door was confronted by Hobbs, revolver in hand. Hobbs fired at close range, and the captain was severely wounded, but rushed at Hobbs who fired again. At this moment Nixon came to the assistance of the captain and Hobbs shot him through the heart. The three mutineers then kept the first mate and crew at bay while they built a raft from the wheat bulkheads and other material, provisioned it and launched it astern. They committed themselves to it, and the ship which was making three knots an hour in a smooth sea, soon lost them in the darkness. A lookout was kept for it the next morning but it was not seen and was supposed to have been lost with those aboard.

It was afterwards stated that the three men were picked up by a schooner and were landed in San Francisco in October, 1902. It is proof of this fact that the British Government seeks. A few months ago Lee Hobbs, a deputy sheriff in Arizona, was identified as the W. A. Hobbs who murdered Nixon, by Christian Wolz, a seaman who was on the Leicester Castle at the time of the mutiny and murder. On the hearing, however, Hobbs produced many witnesses who swore that he was in Arizona at the time of the murder, and though some of his witnesses were discredited, he was discharged. The British Government is now seeking to secure evidence that will make it certain that Hobbs and his companions were rescued either from their raft, or after landing from it at Pitcairn's Island or elsewhere, as Pitcairn's Island was the nearest land at the time of the murder, and it was distant 300 miles.

The British Vice Consul in Apia is making every effort to find someone who actually knows that the three men were picked up from the raft on which they left the ship, or from any place where they might have landed from their raft. It is believed that if they were rescued and returned to the United States, it must have been by some schooner or sloop trading in the South Seas from Samoa, and hence every effort is being made in that place to bring the matter before seafaring men among whom there might be some who could give the required information.

That the mutineers on their hastily constructed raft, should either have been picked up at sea, or landed safely on any island seems incredible, and yet just as strange things have happened. That having been picked up or rescued, no longer ago than October, 1902, no widespread recollection exists of it that would easily lead to certainty regarding the fact is still more surprising, but yet not at all impossible. And if they were not rescued, and the Arizona Deputy Lee Hobbs is not the mutineer W. A. Hobbs, it is a very strange case of mistaken identity.

At any rate it is a mystery which the British Government has set itself to solve, and no pains will be spared to solve it.

## Equitable's New Officers

According to the Literary Digest, instead of restoring the Equitable Life Assurance Society to public confidence by the reorganization of June 9 (considered in issue of June 9, the new management appears merely to have stepped into the position under the searchlight formerly occupied by their predecessors—and the resulting examination does not seem to be entirely satisfactory. The New York Times, which has taken an optimistic view of the broil throughout, now regards the company's troubles as over; and the New York Sun, which has outdone all the rest in making the worst of the scandals, arrives at the same happy conclusion. Most of the newspapers, however, in New York and throughout the country, do not seem to regard Mr. Ryan and Mr. Morton as ideal leaders to conduct the Equitable to the uplands of righteousness. The Hartford Times suspects that Mr. Ryan did not pay millions of dollars for the Hyde stock merely as philanthropy. The dividends on the 502 shares bought by Mr. Ryan are restricted to 7 per cent a year, and some are asking why he paid \$2,500,000 for them. The purchase "one must suspect" is not solely for the dividends it will pay," remarked the Providence Journal. And as for Mr. Morton, who is placed in almost unrestricted control of the society, "the known and inferred facts of his corporate career," observes the Pittsburg Dispatch, "fail to show such Spartan opposition to the corporate ethics of doing things lawfully, if possible, but doing them anyhow, as to guarantee that his supervision will wipe out all the practices by which personal profits are made out of funds belonging to policy-holders."

Even conservative journals like The Independent, The Evening Post, and The Journal of Commerce are expressing dissatisfaction with the new management. The selection of Mr. Morton "leaves something to be desired," says The Independent, and it believes the "a manager more deserving of public confidence could have been found." The Evening Post, too, thinks that Mr. Morton's unfitness "is sufficiently proved by the fact that his career as railway manager is at this moment under investigation by the Government's lawyers," and it regards the transfer of Mr. Hyde's stock to a Wall Street promoter as "bound to inspire suspicion." The Journal of Commerce thinks there has been "only a change of control from a discredited combination to one that has its record to make but does not start with a very strong appeal to general confidence."

No adverse criticism, however, is heard regarding the three trustees who are to hold the Ryan stock—ex-President Cleveland, Justice Morgan J. O'Brien, and George Westinghouse. These trustees are to elect twenty-eight directors chosen by the policy-holders, and twenty-four of their own choosing to represent the stock they hold. As the charter provides that the directors shall be shareholders, it is expected that the minority shareholders will be fully represented in the board.

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Russia has sent a fleet to Theodosia for the protection of that port from the Potemkin, after the Potemkin had left. That is the way Russia does things.

It has often been remarked that it takes a war to make people acquainted with geography. How many Americans knew or cared anything about the Philippines previous to May 1, 1898 for instance? Now every day the eyes of the waiting world are turned to the city of Theodosia where a Russian war vessel in a state of mutiny is making things interesting and, ninety-nine out of a hundred will ask where Theodosia is anyway. Theodosia (also spelled Podosia) is the modern name for the ancient walled city and seaport of Kaifa. It lies towards the eastern end of the Crimean peninsula, on the northern shore of the Black Sea being a little more than a hundred miles from Sebastopol.

The name of the Russian city which is the center of the naval mutiny at present, is Theodosia, meaning "Divine gift." This goes to show that there may be something in a name after all.

Wouldn't it be just like a chapter from one of Eugene Sue's novels, if while Detective Hatter was here in the employ of Governor Carter spying on some of the lesser officials, he was actually here in the employ of President Roosevelt spying on Carter?

Isn't it just like Standard Oil for John D. Rockefeller Jr., to organize the "General Education Board" for the purpose of handling and controlling gifts for educational purposes, and then for John D. Rockefeller Sr. to make his gifts for education to the General Education Board? It has always been a characteristic of Standard Oil to control all the agencies through which it acts.

This is the day that Taft leaves San Francisco coming this way and Carter starts in the other direction.

There is an ominous suggestion in the news that many of the upper classes are leaving St. Petersburg. If revolution spreads much more, the Russian capital may not be a nice place for aristocracy. The Czar must be giving a good deal of thought these days to

## Classified Ads in Star.

**Situation Wanted**  
Open to Engagement. A first-class book-keeper. References. Answer to "System," Star Office.

**LOST.**  
1 Leo Hoonani and 1 Song Book in the name of D. Keaweamahi were lost on the trolley cars on last Friday. Please return to Star Office.

**Wanted**  
Position as housekeeper in hotel or first-class rooming house. References exchanged. Address, Mrs. A. A. Quick, P. O. Box 255, Bakersfield, Cal.

A second hand water tank; wooden one preferred. B. Star office.

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One first-class guitar; almost new. Will be sold cheap. Apply corner Union and Hotel streets in grocery store.

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THEY ARE SURELY CAUSED BY YOUR NEGLIGENCE.  
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NO CHARGE FOR EXAMINATION. DR. JOHN GODDARD.

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the fate of Charles I and of a French monarch and many aristocrats around him.

Every possible assistance should be given to the National Guard in sending a rifle team to take part in the national target contest at Seagirt, New Jersey. As the federal government has agreed to pay the traveling expenses, there will be little cost to be borne here. There is a good chance, as shown by the records that the men from Hawaii will by no means suffer in general comparison with the rest and whether they win anything or not they will be a good advertisement for the Islands.

The Advertiser appears to be laboring under the strange error that acts of the legislature of Hawaii are to be approved or disapproved by the President. It says: "This Act, 64 of the Session of 1905, should not meet the approval of the President of the United States, as other acts of our legislature have also failed of his approval." The President has nothing to do with approving general acts of the legislature of Hawaii. It is not likely that he will ever read Act 64—surely no one will who doesn't have to.

The Stanley Dollar had better interne and be done with it.

Why men will not heed the admonition "to do unto others as they would be done by" which has been preached in every land by its respective philosophers is marvelous—Advertiser.

It is truly a marvelous thing, that that old millennium, so long looked for, refuses to show up.

**TOPICS IN BRIEF.**  
Expositions accomplish another great work besides gathering rare and wonderful exhibits. They provide excuses for the being of vice-presidents.—The Baltimore American.

The Russian people are howling for a constitution and a constituent assembly. Evidently they have never heard what has happened to the constitution of the United States in the Roosevelt era.—The Atlanta Constitution.

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